

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.       An information handling system comprising:  
2           information processing components configured to output audio and visual  
3           information to a PCI Express interface;  
4           a graphics card having a PCI Express interface in communication with the  
5           audio and visual information output by the information processing  
6           components and an audiovisual appliance interface operable to output  
7           audiovisual information to an audiovisual appliance;  
8           a graphics controller coupled to the graphics card and operable to process  
9           visual information of the information processing components for  
10          output to the audiovisual appliance interface;  
11          audio processing components coupled to the graphics card and operable to  
12          process audio information of the information processing components  
13          for output to the audiovisual appliance interface;  
14          a PCI Express switch coupled to the graphics card, the PCI Express switch  
15          disposed between the PCI Express interface, the graphics controller  
16          and the audio processing components, and operable to switch visual  
17          information from the PCI Express interface to the graphics controller  
18          and audio information from the PCI Express interface to the audio  
19          processing components.

1           2.       The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audio  
2           processing components comprise:  
3           an AC97 interface operable to accept the audio information from the PCI  
4           Express switch for output to a CODEC; and  
5           a CODEC operable to accept the audio information from the AC97 interface  
6           and to output the audio information to the audiovisual appliance  
7           interface.

1           3.       The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audio  
2           processing components comprise an audio controller operable to accept the audio

3 information from the PCI Express switch and to output the audio information to the  
4 audiovisual appliance interface.

1 4. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audiovisual  
2 appliance interface comprises a coaxial cable output.

1 5. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audiovisual  
2 appliance interface comprises a HDMI output.

1 6. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audiovisual  
2 appliance interface comprises a HDTV output.

1 7. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audiovisual  
2 appliance interface comprises an EVC output.

1 8. The information handling system of Claim 1 wherein the audiovisual  
2 appliance interface comprises a 1394 output.

1 9. A method for processing audio information through a PCI Express  
2 graphics card, the method comprising:  
3 generating audiovisual information at an information processing system;  
4 communicating the audiovisual information to a PCI Express interface of the  
5 PCI Express graphics card;  
6 switching the audiovisual information with a PCI Express switch so that the  
7 audio information is communicated to audio processing components  
8 and the video information is communicated to video processing  
9 components;  
10 processing the audio and visual information with the audio and video  
11 components to output an audiovisual appliance signal.

1           10.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audio processing components  
2 comprise:  
3           an AC97 interface operable to accept the audio information from the PCI  
4           Express switch for output to a CODEC; and  
5           a CODEC operable to accept the audio information from the AC97 interface  
6           and to output the audio information to the audiovisual appliance  
7           interface.

1           11.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audio processing components  
2 comprise an audio controller operable to accept the audio information from the PCI  
3 Express switch and to output the audio information to the audiovisual appliance  
4 interface.

1           12.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audiovisual appliance signal  
2 comprises a coaxial cable signal.

1           13.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audiovisual appliance signal  
2 comprises a HDMI signal.

1           14.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audiovisual appliance signal  
2 comprises a HDTV signal.

1           15.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audiovisual appliance signal  
2 comprises an EVC signal.

1           16.    The method of Claim 9 wherein the audiovisual appliance signal  
2 comprises a 1394 signal.

1           17.    A PCI Express graphics card comprising:  
2           a PCI Express interface operable to accept audio and visual information  
3           communicated in PCI Express format;

4 a PCI Express switch in communication with the PCI Express interface and  
 5 operable to switch audio information to audio processing components  
 6 and video information to video processing components;  
 7 audio processing components in communication with the PCI Express switch  
 8 and operable to process the audio information to output an audiovisual  
 9 appliance signal;  
 10 video processing components in communication with the PCI Express switch  
 11 and operable to process the video information to output an audiovisual  
 12 appliance signal; and  
 13 an audiovisual interface in communication with the audio processing  
 14 components and the video processing components and operable to  
 15 communicate the audiovisual appliance signal to an audiovisual  
 16 appliance.

1 18. The PCI Express graphics card of Claim 17 wherein the audio  
 2 processing components comprise:  
 3 an AC97 interface operable to accept the audio information from the PCI  
 4 Express switch for output to a CODEC; and  
 5 a CODEC operable to accept the audio information from the AC97 interface  
 6 and to output the audio information to the audiovisual interface.

1 19. The PCI Express graphics card of Claim 17 wherein the audio  
 2 processing components comprise an audio controller operable to accept the audio  
 3 information from the PCI Express switch and to output the audio information to the  
 4 audiovisual interface.

1 20. The PCI Express graphics card of Claim 17 wherein the audiovisual  
 2 interface comprises a single connector having audio and visual information.

1 21. The PCI Express graphics card of Claim 17 wherein the audiovisual  
 2 interface comprises an audio connector having audio information and a video  
 3 connector having visual information.